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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: ~~ME~~ NIE et al.
Serial No.: 10/669,775
Filed: September 24, 2003
Entitled: Vacuum Pumping System

Group Art Unit: 3746
Examiner: n/a
Atty. Dkt.: M03B179

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and every writing referred to herein as being enclosed is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 14, 2004.
(Date)

Betty Lee
Printed name of person signing this certificate

Betty Lee
Signature of person mailing

Dear Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner's attention is directed to the documents identified on the attached Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B, "Information Disclosure Statement." A copy of each non-US patent document is enclosed.

Please consider all the listed documents and list them on the cover sheet of any patents to issue from the subject application.

The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application or within three months of the date of entry of the National Phase of an international application or before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(b), no additional fee is due. As a precaution, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 02-2865 any fee required by this submission.

Very truly yours,

Date:

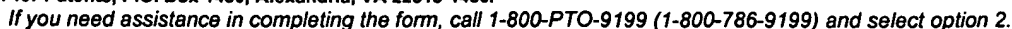
Sept 14, 2004

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Attachments
Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B
Cited References

ILZ:bjl



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/669,775
Filing Date	September 24, 2003
First Named Inventor	MENNIE et al.
Art Unit	3746
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	M03B179

Sheet 2 of 2

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
	4	T. MITSUSHINA, F. SHINJI, M. HIDETOSHI; Abstract of JP 2000-81857 A, dated March 22, 2002 entitled Rear Gas Recovering Method and Device Therefor; WPI/Derwent	
	5	I. MASASHI, S. MITSURU, O. MASATOMO; Abstract of JP 10-259793, dated September 29, 1998 entitled Molecular Pump; WPI/Derwent	
	6	United Kingdom Patent Office Search Report Application No.: GB0407081.9; Date of search: August 5, 2004	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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